



New Hampshire Health Alert Network

Health.Alert@nh.gov

Status: Actual
Message Type: Alert
Severity: Severe
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Identifier: NH-HAN #20121015-1 Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Information
Delivery Time: 12 hours
Acknowledgement: No
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

DATE: October 15, 2012

TIME: 2130 EDT

TO: Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurses, Infection Control Practitioners, Infectious Disease Specialists, Hospital Emergency Departments, Hospital CEOs, Laboratory Response Network, Manchester Health Department, Nashua Health Department, NHHA, NH School Nurses, Community Health Centers, DHHS Outbreak Team, DPHS Investigation Team, Ambulatory Surgical Centers, Pharmacists, Public Health Network, and DPHS Management Team

FROM: Sharon Alroy-Preis MD, State Epidemiologist

SUBJECT: Guidance to Clinicians: National Fungal Meningitis Outbreak

New Hampshire DHHS, Division of Public Health Service (NH DPHS) recommends:

- Joining the Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) conference call, hosted by the CDC, to provide clinical guidance on the rapidly evolving national fungal meningitis outbreak.



Join us for an upcoming COCA Conference Call, where CDC subject matter experts will discuss topics of interest to clinicians. If you have questions or trouble accessing this COCA Call/Webinar, please e-mail coca@cdc.gov.

Multistate Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Investigation Update: Information and Guidance for Clinicians

Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2012 - **TOMORROW**

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Join by Phone:

Dial-In Number: 888-790-6180

Passcode: 1281914

Overview:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continue to work closely with state public health departments on a

multistate investigation of fungal meningitis among patients who received an epidural steroid injection. These cases are associated with a potentially contaminated steroid medication prepared by New England Compounding Center (NECC), located in Framingham, Mass. During this COCA Call, subject matter experts will provide updates to the current epidemiology of the outbreak, describe clinical presentation and features of fungal meningitis, and review CDC's recommended treatment guidance.

Presenter(s):

- **Melissa K. Schaefer, MD**
Medical Officer
Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention

- **Tom Chiller, MD, MPH**
Medical Epidemiologist
Division of Foodborne, Waterborne & Environmental Diseases
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention

- **Peter G. Pappas, MD**
Professor of Medicine
Division of Infectious Diseases
Department of Medicine
University of Alabama at Birmingham

This is an **audio only** call. There are no slides or handouts for this call. The recorded call audio and transcript will be available a few days after the live call. To view the recorded call materials please visit the call webpage at

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2012/callinfo_101612.asp

- No Continuing Education Units are available for this call.

For any questions regarding the contents of this message, please contact NH DHHS Infectious Disease Investigation and Surveillance Sections at 603-271-4496. After hours or toll free (In NH) at 800-852-3345, ext. 4496 or 603-271-5300 and ask for the public health professional on call.

DEFINITION OF TERMS AND ALERTING VOCABULARY

Message Type

Alert: Original alert
Update: Prior alert has been updated and superseded
Cancel: Prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Prior alert has been retracted

Status

Actual: Refers to a live event
Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test: Related to a technical and/or system test

Severity

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe: Significant threat to life or property
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Sensitive

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Identifier

A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation

Delivery Time

Indicates the time frame for the delivery of the alert

Acknowledgement

Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the time frame in which a response is required.

Originating Agency

A guaranteed unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program

The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification database.

If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would prefer to be used, please contact:

Denise M. Krol, MS
NH HAN Coordinator
Denise.Krol@dhhs.state.nh.us

Business Hours: 8 AM – 4 PM
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